



To: Maine Legislature Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Date: March 16, 2025

Re: LD 899 An Act to Strengthen the Requirements for Medical Payments Coverage

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Robert Reed, I am the Executive Director of the Maine Chiropractic Association (MCA) testifying on behalf of my employer, but I also submit my testimony as someone in the health insurance industry in Maine for 13 years. The MCA represents over two hundred Chiropractic Doctors, their staff and most importantly, the patients they serve. We present today offering our testimony in opposition of this bill.

This bill would require an individual to utilize their health insurance benefits to pay for services needed after an auto accident or any incident where another party may be liable for the injury.

For most rehabilitative services covered under health insurance plans, there is a defined limit to dollars or visits allowed each year and thus limit a patient may not be able to receive all care needed before a health insurance benefit is capped and additional benefits are denied. It could also affect care should they require treatment for a separate injury or condition if some or all that rehabilitation benefit was previously applied to a prior liability related claim.

This bill would also limit any healthcare provider financially, including our hospitals who are already feeling the strain of less revenues. Reimbursement under health insurance contracts can be significantly less than payment from a liability insurer. That mix of varying payment types is important to allow services to all patients.

Auto insurers and those offering other types of liability policies will be the only beneficiaries of this bill, creating greater profits. Health insurers will be required to pay the claims but will subrogate back to the liability carrier for reimbursement, thus they will neither win nor lose under this bill, other than a small number of carriers who sell both health insurance and liability coverage.

We thank the Committee for its time and energy and stand ready to provide answers to any questions you may have of the Association.